

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 141613Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4304

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BOGOTA 7266

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS CU PN VE CS CO

SUBJ: CUBA AND THE OAS

REF: STATE 177456

1. WHILE TRYING TO GET TO THE FONMIN PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, PRESIDENT LOPEZ HIMSELF CALLED ME THIS MORNING. HE ASKED WHETHER I WAS AWARE OF PANAMA'S POSITION RE CUBA, AND I SAID I HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE GOC AND WAS TRYING TO REACH FONMIN LIEVANO. LOPEZ THEN SEQD THAT PANAMANIAN FONMIN TACK CAME IN SUDDENLY AND ON HIS OWN TO TALK TO COLOMBIA RE UNILATERAL RECOGNITION OF CUBA. TACK WAS FLYING TO CARACAS, LEAVING APPROX AT 10:30 AM TO TALK TO PRESIDENT PEREZ.

2. PRESIDENT LOPEZ SAID HE TOLD THE PANAMANIANS HE WOULD NOT MOVE UNILATERALLY, THAT HE IS COMMITTED TO GOING THROUGH OAS, AND HE HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED HIS POSITION IN HIS AUGUST 2 SPEECH. HE SAID HE ASKED PANAMA TO RECONSIDER ITS ACTION AND STAY WITHIN THE OAS CHANNEL. LOPEZ SAID HE TOLD THE PANAMANIANS THAT WHILE COLOMBIA DID WANT EVENTUALLY TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA, UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD BE A HIGH PRICE. IT WOULD DESTROY THE OAS, WHICH CASTRO MAY WANT TO DO. COLOMBIA DID NOT WANT TO DESTROY THE OAS AND FELT THAT ANY ACTION OUTSIDE IT, INCLUDING SEPARATE MEETINGS (ANOTHER OF LOPEZ' REFERENCE TO THE NEW DIALOGUE MEETINGS) WEAKENDS THE OAS. LOPEZ SAID HE ALSO TOLD TACK THAT

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HE WAS GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH TACK AND

THE POSITION HE WAS TAKING.

3. PRESIDENT LOPEZ SAID THAT HE THOUGHT HE MAY HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS. HE HAD BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH CARACAS AND WAS SURE THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ WOULD TAKE THE SAME POSITION AS HE (LOPEZ) DID. THEY WERE BOTH COMMITTED TO OAS ACTION. PRESIDENT LOPEZ SAID HE HAD SENT HIS ROVING AMBASSADOR, RAMIRO ANDRADE TERAN (SEE BOGOTA 7265) WITH TACK ON THE PLANE TO CARACAS TO EXPLAIN COLOMBIA'S POSITION, AND THAT ANDRADE WOULD LATER GO ON TO COSTA RICA FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

4. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS TO HIM PRECISELY THE SAME VIEWS THAT MUJAHAD EXPRESSED TO THE PANAMANIANS. I EXPRESSED BY GOVERNMENT'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT LOPEZ' POSITION AND ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE PANAMANIANS. I SAID THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED TO REPEAT THAT WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO AN OAS MEETING LATER IN THE YEAR. LOPEZ SAID THAT THE DATE MAY INCREASINGLY BECOME A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT WILL APPEAR, ESPECIALLY TO THE VENEZUELAN, THAT THEY ARE REALLY SUPPORTING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. I REPEATED THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE THAT OUR OPINION ON TIMING DID REMAIN THE SAME. I APPRECIATED THAT THERE MAY BE PRESSURES FOR SOME EARLIER TIMING AND WOULD REPORT THAT TO WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT LOPEZ ASKED THAT WE STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH.

5. COMMENT: I WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE DEPT'S ATTENTION TO THE VERY COOPERATIVE AND HONEST ATTITUDE THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAS TAKEN DURING ALL OF THIS PERIOD. THE FACT THAT HE CALLED ME TO KEEP ME INFORMED IS, I THINK, AN INDICATION OF HIS SINCERITY. WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT HE HAS HELD STRONGLY TO HIS PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS WITH US AND IS, IN EFFECT, DOING ALL WE COULD REQUEST OF HIM. I AM A LITTLE DISTURBED AT ANDRADE'S INVOLVEMENT, NOT RPT NOT BECAUSE I THINK LOPEZ IS PLAYING GAMES, BECAUSE I DO NOT, BUT BECAUSE I AM AFRIAD ANDRADE MAY PLAY SOME GAMES. IN AF EVENT, HE CANNOT DO TOO MUCH AS LONG AS LOPEZ HOLDS TO HIS PRESENT POSITION AS I BELIEVE HE IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO DO. I CALL THE DEPT'S ATTENTION TO THE QUERY LOPEZ RAISED ABOUT TIMING OF AN OAS MEETING. WE MAY FIND PRESSURES INCREASING ON THIS POINT AND PERHAPS SHOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO A FALBACK POSITION OF AN INITIAL FORMALITY LEADING

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TO FULL CONSIDERATION LATE IN THE YEAR, E.G., A STUDY COMMISSION REPORTING IN THREE MONTHS.

VAKY

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NNN

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